

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:
a main unit having an image forming section
configured to form an image on a sheet of paper;
5 an image reading section located just above the
main unit, and configured to read a document image;
an ejection space defined between a bottom of the
image reading section and the image forming section,
the ejection space having an opening at a front of the
10 main unit;

an ejection tray cover defining a bottom of the
ejection space and configured to receive a paper sheet
ejected from the image forming section, the ejection
tray cover covering the image forming section;

15 an attachment section provided at a front of the
image reading section; and

a control panel unit attached to the attachment
section by a hinge having a predetermined rotational
resistance, the control panel unit being rotatable
20 through a predetermined angle with respect to an
imaginary horizontal plane, the control panel unit
being able to be held in a direction of rotation.

2. The image forming apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the rotational resistance of the hinge
25 can hold the control panel unit stationary in the
direction of rotation even if an operational force is
applied to the control panel unit.

3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

a guide rail attached to the attachment section provided at the front of the image reading section; and

5 a movable rail movable along the guide rail, and

wherein the control panel unit is attached to the movable rail by the hinge having the predetermined rotational resistance, the control panel unit being rotatable through the predetermined angle with respect to the imaginary horizontal plane, the control panel unit being able to be held in the direction of rotation, the control panel unit being movable in a direction of a width of the main unit when a force not less than a predetermined value is exerted on the control panel unit.

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the control panel unit moves in the direction of the width of the main unit if a force of 1N or more is exerted thereon, and the control panel unit does not move if a force less than 1N is exerted thereon.